



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Jobs Focus of Rep. Kind's Education Proposals

*Republican education leaders vote down Bush job training initiative*

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) fought to increase investments in job training today by introducing improvements to the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (HR 4496). In addition to a proposal to salvage the President's employer-focused grant program for job training at community and technical colleges, Kind also sought to maintain support for the widely praised Tech Prep program and to expand training for truck drivers and diesel mechanics.

"Education and job training play a critical role in making sure our workers of today and tomorrow have the resources and skills necessary to succeed, said Rep. Kind. "As a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, I continue to fight for improvements in our education system so that future generations will have the tools they need to operate in the 21st Century and our current workforce so people can gain new skills to open doors of opportunities."

Kind's proposals were offered as the House Education and the Workforce Committee worked to reauthorize the Perkins Act- the primary and largest federal investment for secondary education programs. Kind's amendments sought to:

- 1) meet President Bush's funding request to provide \$250 million for an employer-focused grant program for community and technical colleges. Republican education leaders have instead come back with a \$25 million offer of funds diverted from a dislocated workers program;
- 2) maintain funds for the Tech Prep Grant program, providing for students to follow "career pathways" and enroll in a seamless program of technical education from secondary through post-secondary in pursuit of a degree or credential;
- 3) expand access to Perkins funds for training programs in trucking and diesel mechanics in order to meet the shortage of workers in these fields.

Republican Committee members voted against all three amendments, including that which would have provided the \$250 million that the President has repeatedly called for in appearances at community colleges around the country in the last several months.

"In speech after speech, the President has talked up extra funding for community and technical colleges, but he has not lifted a finger to make it happen," said Kind. "If the President is really interested in getting this funding, he would push for it on Capitol Hill – but he isn't."